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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 11

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-11 at 2200 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No significant updates to report.

Open Source Reporting

Plans for an Ontario-wide school walkout today circulated on social media but do not appear to have materialized in any significant incidents or reporting of note. Some schools in the area of the Ambassador Bridge shifted to virtual learning today due to the ongoing blockade.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

Ontario declared a state of emergency on February 11, 2022 (today) in response to convoy protests that have caused major disruptions in multiple areas of the province in recent weeks. Emergency orders making it offence to block or impede the movement of goods, people and service along critical infrastructure are expected following ratification required by cabinet within 72 hours. Premier Ford indicated that maximum fines of \$100,000 and up to a year imprisonment as well as the authority to remove personal and commercial driver's licenses from anyone found in violation may be forthcoming. The state of emergency will be in effect for 14 days.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reported approximately 25 protestors at Parliament Hill and surrounding area today. It is estimated that 500 trucks remain in the downtown core.

Police observations noted continued tensions between protestors and police and between protestors and media. Protestors continue to display anti-police signage, conduct counter-surveillance of police positions and throng officers attempting to enforce bylaws.

Police reporting indicates some trucks in the downtown area have been deliberately demobilized through tire deflation or chaining.

Attempts to clear an intersection as agreed with organizers was disrupted by members of an anti-authority, Quebec-based ideological group present in Ottawa who formed a line in front of the trucks as they were trying to leave.

Protestors continued to share suspicions amongst the crowd and on social media today that police enforcement is imminent. Protestors continue to express the belief that police are attempting to deliberately provoke them to justify more aggressive enforcement tactics.

Emergency services reported an increase in false calls in the Ottawa area, possibly as a coordinated effort to antagonize and disrupt emergency services.

Open Source Reporting

A convoy of approximately 30 tractor-trailers and 35 passenger vehicles are traveling eastbound on Highway 417 appears to be organized by a leadership figure within the convoy group that has previously used their social media following to disseminate conspiracy theories and COVID-19 misinformation.

Conspiracy theorists associated with the convoy continue to disseminate false information around the legality and intent of police enforcement.

The Ontario Attorney General submitted a successful application to the Superior Court of Justice seeking to prohibit the dissemination and use of funds associated with GiveSendGo fundraisers on February 10, 2022 (today). The funds are now effectively frozen as a result of the court order as financial institutions are prohibited from dealing with the GiveSendGo funds. GiveSendGo has publicly indicated their intent not to comply with the order and deny the Ontario courts jurisdiction over their fund.

The fundraiser on GiveSendGo continues to receive donations; it has raised almost \$8.7 M USD, and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over \$1.2M CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$714,000 CAD.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Police reporting noted minimal activity in the Queen's Park area today, with no issues to report.

Protest convoys staging in the GTA are expected to converge in the downtown core on February 12, 2022. Toronto Police Service is maintaining road closures in the Queen's Park area in anticipation of potential vehicle protests. Road closures include Queen's Park Circle between Bloor Street and College Street; Wellesley Street between Bay Street and University of Toronto; and College Street between Bay Street and Yonge Street. TPS will prioritize access to emergency route and facilitate entry to hospitals for staff and patients seeking care.

The Toronto Police Service continues to collect intelligence in preparation for this coming weekend.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Police continue to work on a plan for restoring flow of traffic at the Ambassador Bridge. Protestors continue to block or attempt to block roadways at and around the Ambassador Bridge. Approximately 100 vehicles continue to occupy a 3-4km stretch of the southbound side of Huron Church Road. Most of the blockade vehicles are passenger vehicles with fewer than 6 tractor-trailers. Entry into Canada remains blocked with the tunnel open to passenger vehicles only. Entry into the U.S. is open. One lane remains open for emergency vehicles.

Hwy 402 WB remains closed between Nauvoo Road and Forest Road

The protestors appear unorganized and attempts at negotiations with the group are difficult. The spokesperson for the protest has advised police that they will be protesting for an extended period of time and have no intention of moving until they hear from the government.

The Windsor Police Service has issued communication to the public that it is a criminal offence to obstruct the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property. A public news update issued today advised anyone blocking or assisting in blocking the streets may face charges and arrest, and risk the seizure of vehicles or property.

OPP and Waterloo Regional Police Service are assisting Windsor Police Service with traffic control and response. Windsor Police arrested one male for dangerous driving; no further detail was provided.

Open Source Reporting

An Ontario Superior Court Judge granted an injunction today aimed at ending the blockade following the application by the Automotive Parks Manufacturer's Association, Global Automakers of Canada and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturer's Association.

Media reporting notes that, upon hearing of the granting of the aforementioned Superior Court injunction, protestors at the Ambassador Bridge voted to continue protest activity at the bridge.

Unconfirmed social media information indicates additional convoys may travel from London to Windsor on February 12, 2022.

Unconfirmed social media information indicates a possible counter-protest may occur at the Ambassador Bridge on February 12, 2022.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

Approximately 20 tractors and passenger vehicles remain on Highway 402 westbound. Traffic at the Bluewater Bridge is normal. A camp for the convoy protestors has been established at a nearby farm property.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging is promoting a convoy of US trucks that may block the border at Port Huron on February 12, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

Open Source Reporting

Unconfirmed social media information indicates a call for protest at major airports across the country on February 12, 2022.

Local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Social media information has called for peaceful protests in other jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that commercial truck drivers in the US are planning to begin their own convoys.

Peace Bridge

Social media information suggests that convoys from Stoney Creek and Niagara-on-the-Lake may attend the Peace Bridge on February 12, 2022.

Nipigon River Bridge

OPP reporting has identified potential convoys and protests in North West Region, including a potential protest at the Nipigon River Bridge. OPP continues to monitor.

Oxford County

Unconfirmed information indicates a protest is planned for February 12, 2022 affecting the on and off ramps of Highway 401 at Highway 59 and Highway 19.

Sault Ste. Marie

Unconfirmed information indicates a protest is planned to block international border crossings this weekend.

ASSESSMENT

The declaration of the state of emergency is likely to be met with anger and defiance by some protestors and their supporters in Ottawa and elsewhere in Ontario. It is also likely to feed the narrative of the repressive state and could increase tensions between protestors and police at blockades. The order may dissuade some protestors and supporters from remaining in the blockade in Ottawa, and from attending current and upcoming protests at border points. Some protestors and supporters are likely to ignore the order, particularly those who may feel emboldened by the Ottawa blockade's success. Both scenarios could result in potential conflict.

Recent actions and statements by blockade organizers and supporters indicate the intent to create as much disruption as possible to transportation infrastructure as a pressure tactic on both government and police. Jurisdictions across the province should expect organized and spontaneous protests, convoys and blockades at critical transportation hubs such as roadways, railway stations, airports,

maritime ports, and border points. Ongoing communication amongst all stakeholders across a range of jurisdictions will be critical to identifying and mitigating the effects of any such actions.

Protest organizers are attributing the lifting of restrictions in some provinces to their protests. This perceived success will likely result in a hardened resolve amongst the protestors and their supporters. Additionally, organizers have stated an intent to hold blockades in provinces that have not dropped COVID-19 related mandates; it is almost certain that this will occur.

The situation in Ottawa remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. Support actions across the province appear to be increasing. The events in Ottawa appear to have considerable support as measured by funding, logistics, participant numbers, and more recently the number ancillary actions which continue to increase. In this respect, the current blockade at the Windsor US-Canada border underscores the potential for major events to occur concomitantly which, in addition to placing a significant strain on law enforcement resources, leverages economic disruption as a means of applying pressure to the federal government.

The potential for conflict amongst individuals and groups with differing agendas at these protests persists, which could pose both a public safety and officer safety threat. At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 12, 2022

- **Ottawa: Call for Freedom Rally** – Parliament Hill (no further details)
- **Toronto: Freedom Convoy Toronto Round Two** – Queens Park 2022-02-12 (1100hrs). Stating they will not leave this time until all mandate are lifted. Meeting at the following locations at 1000hrs:
 - o Vaughan Mills
 - o Yorkdale Mall
 - o Sherway Gardens
 - o Square One
- **Toronto: Mandate Freedom - Peaceful Assembly** – Queen's Park (1200hrs)
- **Hamilton: Protest at City Hall** (1400hrs)
- **Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley: Convoy to Ottawa** (0600hrs)
- **Montreal: Rally "Unis dans l'amour pour la liberté"** (1300hrs) – some participants will go to Ottawa
- **Kingston: Slow Roll** – HWY 38 carpool (1300hrs)
- **Niagara Falls: USA-Canada Convoys 2022** – Peace Bridge (1100hrs) – currently being organized only on the New York side of the border
- **Huntsville: Anti-Regulation Protest** – Huntsville Place Mall along Hwy 11 to Doe Lake Rd and return (1100hrs)
- **Haliburton: Haliburton Freedom Rally** (unconfirmed)

Bracebridge: Anti-Regulation Protest – memorial Park, to be joined by Huntsville convoy (no further details)

- **Lindsay: Rise Up Kawartha Lakes Freedom Skate and Protest** – Victoria Park (1300hrs – 1500hrs) every Saturday until freedom is restored
- **Tillsonburg: Oxford Freedom Convoy** – 400 Simcoe St. (1200 hrs). Estimating 500 vehicles (farm tractors, passenger vehicles and tractor trailers).

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)
- **London: Freedom Convoy #2 – 4350 Wellington Rd S Parking Lot (1400hrs meet; 1500hrs rollout. London: Local Convoy – Heading to Ambassador Bridge afterwards**

February 13, 2022

- **Ottawa: Blue Collar Convoy – 2022-02-13 starting at GRCT Park (btb RCGT Park, 302 Coventry Rd, Ottawa) two routes:**

- o **East Route:** departing GRCT Park 0900hrs; stopping at the RA centre then to Parliament Hill
- o **West Route:** departing Canadian Tire Centre, 1000 Palladium Drive, Ottawa(0900hrs) to Parliament Hill

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

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